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**POSITION DESCRIPTION**

**Position:** Director of Research, Africa, HJFMRI

**Supervisor:** Vice President, Global Research Development

**Location:**HJFMRI Regional Office, Nairobi or HJFMRI Kisumu West Office, Kisumu, Kenya

**Position Summary:**

HJFMRI, a wholly owned, subsidiary of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine (HJF), supports medical research, care, and treatment activities around the world with a heavy emphasis in Africa where it has a Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya.

The incumbent will support HJFMRI and HJF’s other international research operations by providing technical support and identifying and responding to opportunities to broaden its medical and public health research activities throughout Africa.  The incumbent will work independently and with existing HJF, HJFMRI, and/or collaborating investigators to respond to funding opportunities from various USG agencies, the EU, and bilateral and multilateral funders in areas surveillance, observational studies, clinical research and/or trials in infectious disease or evaluation of medical countermeasures, and capacity building to benefit local populations and the global community. This will involve building valuable relationships with various sponsors and donors, analyzing the suitability of announcements, and coordinating the efforts of local and home office HJF and HJFMRI teams to respond to opportunities of interest. The incumbent may also serve as a principal or co-investigator on successful efforts.

The incumbent will mentor, as needed, junior investigators and management teams. The incumbent will also provide senior level direction and oversight in strategic planning and in the development of short-term and long-term goals and metrics based on capacities and capabilities. To achieve this, the incumbent will work closely with HJF/HJFMRI Home Office teams in Bethesda, Maryland and in the region to assess existing programmatic and operational activities from a technical standpoint and to develop and implement strategies to provide improved support for HJFMRI international programs.

The position requirements will include the ability to effectively lead and contribute to complex, multidisciplinary teams and advance the science being executed.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Provide overarching technical support strategies essential to the successful establishment and sustainment of regional and local sites for HJF and/or HJFMRI international programs.
2. Assess and review various funding opportunities for interest and suitability for implementation of announced research at HJFMRI sites and advise management and field sites.
3. Think strategically, establish goals and priorities, and enhance the organization’s flexibility on handling a variety of tasks and shifting of priorities simultaneously.
4. Lead, assign and/or coordinate, the various multidisciplinary technical teams in responding in a timely and comprehensive manner to opportunities to expand impact and revenue.
5. Engage with HJF, HJFMRI, and collaborating investigators to review requirements for successful implementation of studies.
6. Mentor HJF/HJFMRI and/or collaborator junior researchers.
7. Establish and maintain effective contacts and liaison with experts and scientists within and outside the continent of Africa and be responsible in bringing together, scientists, collaborators and administrative staff who will be able to work together to achieve research/award goals efficiently and effectively.
8. Work with local and international staff and management teams to identify problems and prioritize solutions to ongoing operations from a technical or scientific point of view.
9. Help trouble shoot and address any barriers to responding to the funding opportunities. This will include flexibility to handle a variety of tasks and shift priorities simultaneously, and ability to resolve complex issues quickly and effectively.
10. Serve as a Principle or Co-Investigator on successful proposals as assigned.
11. Where a PI or Co-PI, publish/present results to other scientists within and outside of Africa and represent HJF and HJFMRI at international scientific meetings.
12. Participate in activities of professional societies to keep abreast of the latest developments in clinical research and surveillance.

**Position Requirements and Specifications:**

**Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:**

1. Ability to successfully lead and/or participate as a member of complex, multidisciplinary research teams to meet pre and post award goals.
2. Excellent organization, time, and project management skills, including excellent scientific written/ oral communication skills.
3. Excellent leadership skills with ability to nurture good working relationships with the relevant stakeholders and partners.
4. Ability to effectively lead and contribute to complex, multidisciplinary teams.
5. Proven professional mastery of clinical research methodology with relevant experience in clinical infectious diseases research.
6. Possess broad and extensive experience and skill in consulting with biomedical scientists, physicians, human use research specialists, and policy makers and in participating in collaborative research.
7. Posse a profound knowledge of scientific writing and the ability to convey technical information and ideas accurately and efficiently.

**Education/Training:**

1. Physician (MD or equivalent)
2. Master’s degree in public health (MPH) is an added advantage.

**Minimum Experience:**

* At least 5 years knowledge and experience in research and public health program implementations with various partners, communities, donors and sponsors in LMICs.

**Physical Capabilities:**

* Job performance would require movement around and between countries in Africa, Europe and North American hence the incumbent must be able to travel regionally and internationally.

**Required Licenses, Certification or Registration:**

* The incumbent must have current registration, licensure and/or certification by GCP, HSP CITI and other relevant professional bodies.

**Supervisory Responsibilities/ Controls:**

* The incumbent may supervise multidisciplinary contract staff.

**Work Environment:**

* Office environment and regional field sites.
* May require working evenings and weekends.

**Background:**

* Must have worked in LMICs